

[27th November 1928]

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Thank you, Sir. I move that the Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, be referred to a Select Committee composed of the same members to which the Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, introduced by Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao was referred with the addition of the following three names :—

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.

„ P. C. Venkatapati Raju.

„ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I second it."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Sir, I do not propose to oppose the motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. I think it will be more convenient if the members of both the Select Committees are the same, because, as the Committee is to consider both the Bills together it will be difficult to decide when the extra members are to be added on."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" I see the difficulty and withdraw the extra names I suggested."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that Mr. Anjaneyulu's Bill be referred to the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill of Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao."

The motion was put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Does the House propose to have a consolidation of the two Bills ? "

* Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, I move that the Select Committee be authorized to present a consolidated Bill within two months from to-day. My object is that after considering the two Bills the Select Committee might consider it advisable to present a consolidated Bill, in order to make it convenient for the House to consider them together. At the same time, as the two Bills relate to the same Act, it will be a convenient course to adopt. I have fixed the time within two months from to-day so that when the next meeting of the House comes on, we may have the report of the Select Committee ready."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

XII

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

* Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, under Standing Order 34, I beg to move that items 1, 2 and 3 relating to motions on matters of general public interest be adjourned till item 4 is disposed of. I may submit for the information of the House that my hon. Friends (the movers respectively of motions Nos. 1, 2 and 3) Messrs. A. B. Shetty, Harisarvottama Rao and Manikkavelu Nayakar have kindly agreed to my proposal. I therefore hope that the House will not have any objection to the adjournment of these three items till item 4 is disposed of."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" I second the motion."

The motion was put and carried.

27th November 1928]

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The House will now take up consideration of item No. 4 on the agenda."

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE ECONOMIC CONDITION
OF KISTNA, GODAVARI EAST AND GODAVARI WEST.

* Mr. J. BHEEMAYYA :—"The resolution that stands in my name runs as follows :—

1-15
p.m.

"This Council recommends to the Government that (a) for the purpose of making an open public enquiry into the economic condition of the tract as preliminary to the resettlement of the districts of Godavari East, Godavari West and Kistna, Government be pleased to constitute a committee, not less than half of the members of which being elected by this Council; and (b) pending the said enquiry the resettlement scheme report of the Kistna, West Godavari and East Godavari districts be held in abeyance."

The hon. Member in moving his resolution spoke in Telugu.

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Sir, I rise to second this motion, because I feel that resettlements in this Presidency are being conducted in a very high-handed manner. The economic condition of the people is little thought of. I have before me a very voluminous report by the Settlement Officer. Before I proceed to discuss in detail the scheme report of the Special Settlement Officer, I wish to make a few general observations in regard to the irrigation works that are concerned with the resettlement. This area was in the middle of the 19th century one of the most arid portions in Southern India. It was affected by famines and, in spite of schemes being proposed from time to time, no scheme was taken up until a terrible blow fell upon the land about the year 1833-34. It was reserved to a great sympathetic officer, Mr. Cotton, to propose the starting of irrigation works and it was in consequence of the terrible famines that were devastating the area that this area was brought under cultivation. This fact has especially to be remembered because I hold that any resettlement officer if he has to be reasonable must take into account the economic interests that exist at the time of the inauguration of the scheme and make due allowance for the adjustment of national life; though we all admit that Government should increase their sources of income for meeting the expenditure on works that they have undertaken on behalf of the population. The first settlement operations were begun about the year 1830. This settlement proceeded, according to the authority of the present Special Settlement Officer, on very wrong lines so far as the uplands were concerned. The present Special Settlement Officer says : 'After all, these patchwork tables framed for the upland taluks of the Godavari district embody the most irrational gradations of rates of settlement in the history of the ryotwari settlement.' Even with regard to the classification of the wet areas, the Settlement Officer holds that it was not properly done at the time. What happened later? There was resettlement again in 1849. In that resettlement uplands were not touched, the island Divi was not touched. What was touched after all? Only the delta was touched. Now we are on the third settlement. This Special Settlement Officer will admit in general the very grave difficulties that the ryots have to suffer in these three districts. But he has cleverly managed to give an impression that these districts deserve an enhancement of rent. The report is very well